

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 A-01 M-02 SS-20

SP-03 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /103 W

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P R 171628Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0160

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL - EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT
IMPLIED IN TESTIMONY

REF (A) FREETOWN 1748 (B) FREETOWN 1596

1. TRIAL OF 15 ACCUSED ON TREASON CHARGES HAS
PROCEEDED SLOWLY SINCE JURY SELECTED SEPT 12
(NOTE: EMBASSY FSL MENTIONED REFTEL A NOT RPT NOT
CALLED TO SERVE AS JUROR) WITH PRINCIPAL TESTIMONY
BEING PROVIDED BY A FORMER ARMY MAN NAMED MORLAI
SALIEU KAMARA WHO STATES HE WAS RECRUITED AS PART
OF GROUP DETAILED TO BOMB RESIDENCE OF VICE
PRESIDENT/PRIMIN S.I. KOROMA. TESTIMONY SO FAR
ALONG LINES INDICATED REF B.

2. IN TESTIMONY SEPT 16, AS REPORTED IN PRESS
SEPT 17, KAMARA SAID THAT AT MEETING NIGHT OF
JULY 29/30 PRIOR TO DISPATCH OF BOMB SQUADS HE
HAD ASKED FORMER ARMY CHIEF DAVID LANSANA, ONE OF
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ACCUSED, IF GROUP HAD OUTSIDE HELP. KAMARA TESTIFIED

THAT LANSANA REPLIED THERE NO NEED TO WORRY SINCE HE (LANSANA) HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH QUOTE FORMER SERGEANT DAVIES WORKING IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY UNQUOTE AND THAT DAVIES HAD QUOTE ASSURED LANSANA THAT IF THERE WAS ANY BREAK, INNERQTE THEY WOULD HELP 7 END INNERQTE UNQUOTE. KAMARA SAID LANSANA FURTHER STATED THAT AN EX-LIEUTENANT KAMARA WORKING AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY HAD ALSO ASSURED GROUP OF HELP.

3. "FORMER SERGEANT DAVIES" WHO REFFERED TO IN TESTIMONY IS EMBASSY'S CONTRACTOR FOR SECURITY GUARD SERVICES WHO WAS PICKED UP BY POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID) ON AUGUST 30 AND WHOSE OFFICIAL DETENTION ORDER HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE. AT TIME OF ARREST DAVIES HAD IN HIS POSSESSION ADVANCE FROM EMBASSY FOR PAYMENT OF GUARD SALARIES FOR MONTH OF AUGUST. MONEY IS CURRENTLY IMPOUNDED BY CID AND PRIOR KAMARA TESTIMONY EMBASSY HAD ALREADY BEEN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO CID FOR RETURN OF FUNDS. ALTHOUGH DAVIES FOR CONVENIENCE SAKE HAS BEEN PROVIDED OFFICE SPACE IN EMBASSY, HE IS EMBASSY CONTRACTOR AND NOT RPT NOT FSL, A POINT WE HAD ALREADY MADE TO CID AND WHICH GOSL APPEARS TO UNDERSTAND FULLY. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR IN ALL CONVERSATIONS WITH CID THAT OUR INQUIRIES SOLELY DEVOTED TO POSSIBLE RELEASE OF FUNDS AND IN NO WAY RELATED TO STATUS OR ACTIONS OF DAVIES.

4. ON RECEIPT PRESS STORY SEPT 17, I IMMEDIATELY CALLED SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT G.L. V. WILLIAMS TO BRING TESTIMONY TO HIS ATTENTION AND ASK HIM TO ASSURE PRESIDENT HHAT ANY IMPLICATION OF EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT WAS COMPLETE NONSENSE. WILLIAMS NOW ARRANGING APPOINTMENT FOR ME TO MAKE ASSURANCES TO PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. WILL REPORT ON MEETING LATER.

5. WHILE THOSE WHO WISH MAKE TROUBLE IN US-SL RELATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TRY TO MAKE MOST OF IMPLICATIONS OF KAMARA'S TESTIMONY ABOUT LANSANA'S ALLEGED STATEMENT, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RESPONSIBLE LEVELS OF GOSL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO IMPLICATION OF EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT. FACT THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS, WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT TESTIMONY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, INVITED CU CULTURAL ATTRACTION LOS ANGELES JUBILEE SINGERS TO GIVE PRIVATE CONCERT AT STATE HOUSE SEPT 12 AND LATER PRESENTED THEM WITH PERSONAL GIFTS STRONGLY SUGGESTS STEVENS NOT FEELING ANTAGONISTIC GO USG OR EMBASSY WHICH, AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, WAS

THE CASE WHEN HE HAD MISTAKEN BELIEF IN USG BACKING
OF 1971 ARMY COUP ATTEMPT. NONETHELESS, WITH
IMPLICATION NOW IN PUBLIC PRINT, I BELIEVE PROPER
COURSE IS FOR ME TO PURSUE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT
TO ASSURE HIM THAT IMPLICATION OF TESTIMONY HAS NO
BASIS IN FACT.
OLSON

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